



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Please share this information with all those who may be decorating in your place of business or at your location. The information contained in this handout applies to businesses, schools, restaurants, hotels, student housing and places of public assembly. Members of the Seattle Fire Department may drop by in the coming weeks to conduct a walk-through inspection to identify fire hazards. The purpose of the inspection is to help ensure a fire safe holiday season.

Requirements for Indoor Greenery

Fresh cut trees, garlands and wreaths displayed indoors must be fire retardant. For the entire period that greenery is on display, it must be able to pass a Fire Department *fire retardant test*.

To treat greenery yourself:

- Only use products that carry the seal of the California State Fire Marshal's Office or Underwriter's Laboratory. They must be specific for the type of greenery in use.
- Apply the product exactly as instructed on the label. Make sure you put enough on or it may not work. Failure to apply a product correctly may result in greenery losing its fire retardant properties as it dries out over time.
- Products for treatment of cut evergreens may be purchased at home stores, hardware stores, paint stores or stores that carry theatrical or decorative display materials.
- Homemade recipes for treatment of evergreens are not acceptable.



To have holiday greenery commercially treated:

Florists and Christmas tree sales lots may sell greenery that is treated and certified as fire retardant.

Artificial greenery

Purchase greenery that is certified as being "fire retardant" or "non-combustible".

Please note:

Greenery is naturally fire retardant when first cut. This is because of its high water content. The longer greenery is inside on display, the more it will dry out. Be sure to apply fire retardant treatments exactly as specified to help ensure that greenery can safely remain on display throughout the holiday season.

If you have questions, please contact the Seattle Fire Department at (206) 386-1450 during weekday business hours.



Candles

Candles are one of the most frequent causes of holiday fires. Please note that a Seattle Fire Department permit is required to use candles in a restaurant or other public assembly occupancy.

Failing to extinguish candles before leaving the premises, or placing candles too near to decorations that will burn, are frequent causes of holiday fires. Be sure that candles are placed in sturdy holders, and that decorative rings or floral arrangements are fire retardant or flame proof.

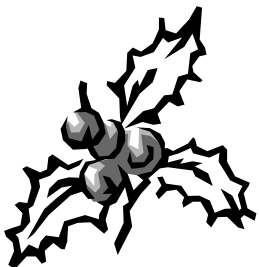


Exiting

Special holiday events may result in increased numbers of people in your facility. Be sure to review your emergency evacuation procedures with all staff members. Carefully monitor the number of people to make sure that you do not exceed the maximum limits of your occupancy load.

**Holiday Safety Checklist
On Reverse Side**

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST



Checklist For Decorations

Make sure you can mark "yes" to all of these

- ☐ All decorations and displays are flameproof or fire retardant.
- ☐ Decorations do not obstruct sprinkler systems or access to fire extinguishers or fire alarm pull stations.
- ☐ Decorations do not intrude into or block the minimum width of exit ways.
- ☐ Exit doors are kept unlocked when the building is occupied.
- ☐ Internally lit exit signs are illuminated at all times when the building is occupied.
- ☐ Occupant load limitations are strictly observed in public assembly occupancies.
- ☐ All electrical cords and lights carry the label of *Underwriters Laboratory*.
- ☐ Electrical cords and lights are carefully inspected before use for cracks, areas of wear, or electrical shorts.
- ☐ Decorative lighting is turned off when the premises are unoccupied.
- ☐ Only heavy-duty extension cords are used for holiday lighting, and they are not overloaded.
- ☐ Decorations placed next to lit candles are fire retardant.
- ☐ Candles are placed in holders that won't tip or burn.
- ☐ Packaging debris and other combustible material is confined to approved, covered containers.
- ☐ Materials that will burn are kept at least 24 inches from any heat source.
- ☐ Stairways and stairway landings are free from storage of any type.
- ☐ Cut trees, wreaths, and garlands are removed as soon as possible after the holiday observance.

